

January 27, 2010

American Red Cross
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the state most devastated by the worst natural disaster in American history - Hurricane Katrina - I deeply appreciate the thousands of volunteers and the millions of dollars in contributions that have helped Mississippi recover. We could not have made it without that outpouring of support.

In that same spirit of responding to a great human tragedy, this one the horrific January 12, 2010, earthquake in the country of Haiti, I am very pleased to forward to the Red Cross Haiti relief fund these checks collected from members of the Mississippi State Legislature, Mississippi State Capitol employees and members of my Administration. These contributions were presented to me during a legislative session yesterday and I wanted to get the money into your capable hands as quickly as possible, as I know the need is urgent.

I also want to specifically offer my thanks to State Sen. Willie Simmons of Cleveland, Mississippi, and State Rep. Chuck Espy of Clarksdale, Mississippi, who spearheaded this effort and challenged elected officials and staff members to dig into their own pockets to help with the effort; people have been donating since last week.

I speak for all Mississippians when I say we remain grateful for the substantial support the Red Cross delivered to our state's Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina and other tragic events. Helping the people in Haiti is a way we can demonstrate our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour